

This hearing continues an investigation that began earlier this year into the adequacy of labor law enforcement in New Orleans during the period following Hurricane Katrina. The field hearing will take a closer look at the performance of the New Orleans District Office of the US Department of Labor since the hurricane.

After Hurricane Katrina, President Bush suspended Davis-Bacon wage requirements in the hurricane-affected region. A number of other labor law requirements were also suspended by executive order and administrative action. At the same time, billions of federal dollars flowed into the region to fund clean up and reconstruction. Immigrant labor also increased.

The Subcommittee held its first hearing on June 26, where it heard from workers and advocates that a “Wild, Wild West” atmosphere prevailed, and many workers were denied wages and overtime by employers in violation of the law. The hearing also examined the role of the Wage and Hour Division of the US Department of Labor in investigating and prosecuting these violations.

Monday, October 29, 2007
10 a.m.
Loyola Law School
Room 308
536 Pine Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Witnesses for the October 29 hearing include:

Panel I

Professor Luz Molina, Clinical Professor, Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice, Loyola Law School

Mr. Jeffrey Steele, Former clean-up worker in New Orleans

Mr. Tyrone Wilson, Former clean-up worker in New Orleans

Mr. Alfred McQuirter, Former clean-up worker in New Orleans

Mr. Rodney Smith, Former clean-up worker in New Orleans

Mr. Jaime Games, Guest Worker

Panel II

Mr. Sabulal Vijayan, Guest Worker

Ms. Maria Eugenia, Guest Worker

Mr. Rolando Sanchez, Guest Worker

Mr. Axel Landivar, Guest Worker

Mr. Daniel Castellanos, Former Guest Worker and Organizer with the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice

Panel III

Ms. Barbara Hicks, Director, Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, Department of Labor District Office, New Orleans

Documents and Links

- [Congressman Kucinich Opening Statement](#)
- [Jeffrey Steele Testimony](#)
- [Tyrone Wilson Testimony](#)
- [Alfred McQuirter Testimony](#)
- [Rodney Smith Testimony](#)
- [Sabulal Vijayan Testimony](#)
- [Jose Victor Hernandez Testimony](#)
- [Barbara Hicks Testimony](#)